Use of official language in Foreign Missions

†1580. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of External Affairs is implementing in practice the orders of His Excellency, President of India with regard to progressive use of Constitutional Official Language of India;

(b) the number of Embassies or Missions in foreign countries where adequate Translators have been deputed for translating the transactions into Official Language (Rajbhasha); and

(c) what is the prospective scheme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of External Affairs is making every effort to ensure compliance of the Official Language Act & Rules. Documents like bilateral Treaties, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding, Credentials, Speeches of President, PAC paras, Annual Report of the Ministry, Parliament Questions and other documents submitted to both the Houses of Parliament are being issued in Hindi and English. Hindi forms an integral part of the FSI training programme. Intensive training about the Government's Official Language Policy is given to the participants.

With a view to propagating Hindi abroad, the Ministry has a well-formulated scheme of propagation of Hindi through its Missions abroad. As part of this scheme, standard Hindi literature comprising books written in Hindi on various subjects such as Indian culture, art, literature, language, history, religion, philosophy, etc. are sent to local institutions, voluntary organizations etc. engaged in teaching Hindi. Hindi textbooks, teaching aid material, such as, charts, audio-video cassettes, typewriters, computer softwares, etc. are also sent to the Missions for donation to such institutions. Some of our Missions have been organizing Hindi conferences, literary events and Hindi essay competitions to encourage those local students who have knowledge of Hindi, while some other Missions are conducting classes for local people keen to learn Hindi. 50 slots are allocated to foreign nationals for learning Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. Hindi teachers are appointed in Indian Missions abroad under a special scheme of the Ministry to teach Hindi to the children of India-based officials.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Hindi Advisory Committee of the Ministry, two officials are detailed every year to New York during the UNGA Session to assist those members of the Indian delegation who wish to speak in Hindi.

In pursuance of the resolutions passed in the first five World Hindi Conferences an MOU was signed between India and Mauritius for setting up a World Hindi Secretariat in Port Louis.

(b) and (c) At present six Misssions have posts of Hindi Officers. These six Missions are located in countries which have sizable number of people of Indian origin. The Missions are HCI, Port of Spain; HCI, Port Louis; HCI, George Town; HCI, London; E/I, Paramaribo and E/I, Kathmandu.

Ministry equips all Missions with Hindi-English and English-Hindi Dictionaries as well as the latest Hindi Softwares to facilitate translations. Creation of more Hindi Posts would be considered as per requirement and demand of the Missions/Posts.

Functioning of Government Offices abroad

†1581. SHRI BARJINDER SINGH HAMDARD:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many offices of Government are situated abroad;

(b) if so, the name of the countries where such offices are situated in the year 1998-99 alongwith names of the offices and number of employees posted there at the same time; and

(c) the ares in which duties have been handed over to each offices alongwith their duties?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. At present, Government of India has 158 Missions/Posts abroad.

(b) A country-wise list for the year 1998-1999 is given in Statement. (*See* below). The total number of officers and staff in position at our Missions/Posts abroad for this period was 2246.